

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An anvil for providing support to a backed ply material during a cutting operation by an ultrasonic blade, the backed ply material traveling in a first direction, the ultrasonic blade having a cutting profile, the ultrasonic blade being operable to travel along a cutting path, the cutting path being oriented in a transverse manner relative to the first direction, the anvil comprising:

a rigid base for securing the anvil to a cutting assembly;

an inverted "T" shaped channel in the rigid base and coinciding with the cutting path;

a "T" shaped insert to mate with the channel;

a surface on the insert to support the backed ply material, the surface being secured to the base; and

a groove disposed upon the surface and coinciding with the cutting path, the groove having a curved profile corresponding to a tip portion of the cutting profile, the groove providing support during the cutting operation ~~butt cutting operations, slit cutting operations, and taper cutting operations~~, wherein a backing of the backed ply material is urged into the groove during the cutting operation.

2. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim 1, wherein the rigid base comprises a metal base.

3. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim 2, wherein the ~~rigid base~~ metal base comprises a steel base.

4. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim 1, wherein the surface comprises a metal surface.

5. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim 1, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the insert comprises a compliant material ~~secured to the base, the surface being disposed upon the insert.~~
6. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the insert comprises a high pressure laminate.
7. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the insert comprises a polymeric material.
8. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim 7, wherein the ~~insert~~ polymeric material comprises an ultra high molecular weight polymer.
9. (Currently amended) The anvil according to claim 7, wherein the ~~insert~~ polymeric material comprises nylon.
10. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:
an ultrasonic cutting tool comprising a stylus, the stylus comprising a tip; and
a drive system that rotates the tip between a first cutting orientation and a second cutting orientation;
an anvil comprising:
a first surface to support a backed ply material at a first height;
a second surface to support the backed ply material at a second height; and
a groove in cooperative alignment with the tip, the groove being disposed between the first surface and the second surface, and disposed along a path traveled by the tip, wherein in the first cutting orientation the tip remains at a stationary location along the groove while the ply material moves in a first direction, and in the second cutting orientation the tip travels along at least part of the length of the groove while the ply material remains stationary.
11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 10, wherein the anvil further comprises an insert, the insert comprising the third surface.
13. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 12, wherein the insert comprises a polymeric material.
14. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 13, wherein the insert comprises at least one of an ultra high molecular weight polymer and nylon.
15. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 10, wherein the groove-includes a resilient material that deflects to the third height in response to force exerted by the tip.
16. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 10, wherein the anvil comprises a dimensionally stable, rigid, and wear resistant material.
17. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 16, wherein the anvil comprises a metal.
18. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 16, wherein the anvil comprises a high pressure laminate.
19. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 16, wherein the anvil comprises at least one of a polymeric material and a resin.
20. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 10, wherein the first height and the second height are essentially the same.
21. (Withdrawn) A method of generating an anvil, the anvil providing support for a stylus of a cutting assembly while cutting a backed ply material, the method comprising:
 - disposing an anvil blank in the cutting assembly, the anvil blank including a carvable, dimensionally stable, rigid, and wear resistant material, the anvil blank further including an axis disposed in a perpendicular direction relative to a direction of travel of the backed ply material;

setting the stylus to contact the anvil blank;
drawing the stylus along the axis, wherein the stylus generates a groove in the anvil blank;
determining a depth of the groove; and
repeating the setting and drawing steps in response to the depth being less than a predetermined minimal depth.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein the anvil blank includes a high pressure laminate.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein the anvil blank includes Micarta®.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:
orienting an edge of the stylus in a direction perpendicular to the axis.